

# THE FRIENDS OF KINGS PARK STIRLING

## Committee Meeting 19 June 2023

Time/Venue: 6.30pm, Information Point/Station next to Stirling Council Main Library.

### Approved Minute

**1. COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:** David Leslie (Chair), Gordon Campbell (Treasurer), Neil Fairweather (Vice Chair), Hector Currie (Secretary/Minute Secretary), Moira Fairweather, Wendy Garcia.

**2. APOLOGIES:** Graham Morrice

**3. GUEST:** Neil Campbell Ross

#### **4. APPROVAL OF MINUTE OF COMMITTEE MEETING ON 22<sup>nd</sup> MAY 2023**

Correction: The sports pavilion was built in 1923. Neil F. moved approval. Moira seconded. The minute was approved.

#### **5. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE 22<sup>nd</sup> MAY NOT ON THE AGENDA**

**Item 9(a) Marketing Strategy:** David reported that we had been unsuccessful in securing a stall at the Stirlingshire Voluntary Enterprise event in the Thistle Centre.

**Item 12(b) Tennis courts upgrade:** Neil and Hector had met with Kris Henderson (LTA Scottish Investment Manager). Progress was positive.

#### **6. FINANCE**

Gordon presented an expenditure statement. £600 was spent from the 1st March to 10th June 2023. This includes £301 on our web site and domain registration (for 2 years), our logo and business cards and £135 on the Peace of Mind Garden. We were in a healthy financial situation.

#### **7. STIRLING VOLUNTEERING ACTION PLAN**

David reported his attendance at the online launch of the volunteering Action Plan by Stirlingshire Voluntary Enterprise. The section addressing recruitment of volunteer committee members was most helpful although FKP has already adopted a number of its recommendations. **Action.** David agreed to check with SVE on our membership.

#### **8. AREA FORUM ARRANGEMENTS**

David reported his attendance as the FKP representative at a meeting for our geographical area on the redesign of Stirling Council's Area Forum structure. More meetings and information are anticipated. It was difficult at this stage to see how a high-level area forum would impact on, or benefit, FKP other than providing contact with other community groups.

## 9. PARK PROJECT UPDATES

### (a) Apple Orchard.

1. The dry weather is likely to result in a poor crop of apples this year.

2. **New Information Panel.** As the current orchard information board was distant from the orchard and with text that was well out-of-date, Neil F. reported on a project to remove the current board and install a new orchard interpretation panel immediately in front of the orchard. The new board would have child-friendly graphics and be accessible to all. It would provide much added value, encouraging people to take an interest in the orchard and educating children in pollination, biodiversity and where their food comes from.

A quote from *Arken Creative* in Stirling for £1470 inc. VAT has been obtained that would cover the production and installation of a new board. To meet that cost, a grant application would be made to Stirling Council's Community Fund. The project had the informal support of the Council's Rangers Service. Following discussion, including of disability and dementia-friendly issues, the committee gave its full backing to an application and agreed it should be submitted to the Fund for its next decision-making deadline (11/07/2023). **Action.** Neil to contact the Rangers Service for formal support and to submit a grant application with the appropriate accompanying information required, including the committee's approval decision.

It was also agreed: **Action.** Neil to contact Stirling Council Land Services to request help by removing the current board and digging the holes for the new panel's supports. Submission of accounts. **Action.** Gordon to obtain an up-to-date statement of FKP's accounts and the Co-operative Bank to pass to Neil.

4. It was also hoped that, over time, the orchard area could become a biodiversity hub.

### (b) Peace of Mind Garden.

1. Good progress has been made in improving the Garden though much has still to be done. A meeting would be held in the Garden to review development.

2. **Event.** The Rangers Service will be holding an event in the Park from 10am-2pm on the 12<sup>th</sup> July. FKP had agreed to link-up with the event but there had been no recent contact. **Action.** Neil to contact Eilidh Coll to clarify the position. **Action.** Wendy to arrange for printing a suitable number of posters for the event. The availability of members and volunteers to cover our involvement on the day would be arranged over the next few weeks **Action.** Neil to make request to volunteers.

(c) **Butterfly Border.** The volunteers had made a noticeable improvement to the Border but a discussion would be needed with Andrew about possible plant transplants to the Peace of Mind Garden.

## 10. RECYKE-A-BIKE VOLUNTEER SUPPORT

1. Hector reported on the support we had received recently from *Recyke-a-Bike* charity with their very effective work clearing weeds from the gravel round the privet quadrants and sweeping gravel from the steps round the fountain as well as clearing scores of thistles and removing cleavers (sticky-willie) around the entrance to the Community Garden. It had made a visible improvement to that area. **Action.** Hector to thank the charity for all the hard work it had done.

2. It was agreed there would be a benefit in assembling a list of suitable future tasks for voluntary organisations such as *Recyke-a-Bike* to carry out.

## 11. FRIENDS OF KINGS PARK CONSTITUTION

David explained the rationale for updating our constitution ahead of this year's AGM. Neil (Ross) who had carried out the redrafting, went over the adjustments, inclusions and exclusions. The committee discussed and agreed the changes in the presented draft, subject to further adjustments to:

**Section 3.** Objectives. Move '*publicising and promoting the work of the group*' to the Delivery of Objectives section.

**Section 4.** Delivery of Objectives. The second bullet point: Start with '*Seek to grow the membership and ...*'

**Section 6.** Committee. Add to (c) '*as necessary*' after '*other office bearers*'. Re-write (d) about co-opted persons in relation to the AGM.

**Section 7.** Finance. (e). Remove '*remains within budget*' and replace with '*does not operate in deficit*' or similar words.

**Action.** Neil R. The redraft to be revised as above and forwarded for final checking by David and Hector.

## 12. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING PLANNING

The AGM will likely be held in late September or early October 2023. A guest speaker still requires identification. **Action.** David will approach a colleague in Historic Environment Scotland. **Action.** David to check with Kings Park Community Council to avoid a clash of dates of AGMs. **Action.** All committee members were requested to think urgently about a possible speaker, failing which, we will have to proceed without a speaker.

*Note. Our usual venue, the Smith Art Gallery and Museum will need booked soon.*

## 13. ANY OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS

**Trudi Togneri.** David reported that Trudi, who resigned from the committee in February 2023, has been awarded a **British Empire Medal** in the King's birthday honours list. It was agreed to record Trudi's long association with the Friend's group and the commitment she had made to partnering our work in the park with the students at Stirling High School. **Action.** Hector agreed to buy a congratulations card for the committee to sign. **Action.** Wendy and Neil agreed to include information on our Facebook page and website.

## 14. DATE OF NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING

The next committee meeting will be held **Monday 7<sup>th</sup> August, 6.30 pm** at the Information Point/Station next to the Council's Main Library.